

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 8-18 are amended, and claims 19 and 20 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Ramakrishnaiah in the March 22, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9 and 15-18 are amended to correct informalities and antecedent basis. Claims 9-14 are amended to correct their dependency. Thus, the claims are not narrowed by such amendments.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8-11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,768,563 to Murata et al. (Murata). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that a meeting capture controller displays, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera selection and a suggested camera angle selection based on sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information. For example, as described in the specification at paragraphs [0020]-[0023], the meeting capture controller provides a selection of a camera or an angle of a camera based on the information of candidate activity event, location information and rules, so that the user may select the suggested camera and/or the camera angle to facilitate the meeting capture. See also paragraph [0035].

During the interview, the Examiner asked the Applicants' representatives for clarification of the recited term "suggestion." As described in paragraph [0017], for example, a human sensible indicator presented on the active image data display 46 indicates when a different camera or a different camera angle should be selected. In other words, based on the suggestion by the indicator, the user is able to select an appropriate camera or camera angle.

As discussed during the interview, in Murata, disclosed by col. 8, line 49-col. 9, line 3 and col. 9, lines 14-27, a map window 60 displays a map showing an arrangement of seats in an office, for example, as shown in Fig. 4 of Murata. The map window 60 shows cameras provided in the office and whether or not they are in use by other users. When a user desires an access to a certain camera by selecting the camera from the map, the camera management server 50 determines whether the camera is in use and grants a permission to perform a remote operation of the camera if not in use. Then, an output image from the camera is displayed in a camera image window 62 at the user's terminal to allow the user to operate the camera using the camera operation panel 64.

That is, the camera management server 50 does not provide the user with any suggestion(s) as to which camera or which camera angle to use based on sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information, but only determines whether the camera desired by the user is in use and grants a use of the camera if not in use.

Murata also teaches inhibiting a certain area from viewing by a camera by showing an inhibited area as shown in Fig. 5. However, it is merely an indication that the camera cannot view an area. Applicants respectfully submit that such inhibition is not a suggestion of a camera or a camera angle for selection, and certainly is not based on the information recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Murata does not teach or suggest these features. As such, claim 1 is patentable over Murata.

Claim 8 recites displaying, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera and a suggested camera angle selection based on determined sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information. Claims 15 and 16 each recite instructions for displaying, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera and a suggested

camera angle selection based on determined sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information. As argued above with respect to claim 1, Murata does not teach or suggest such features. As such, claims 8, 15 and 16 are patentable over Murata.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 9-11 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 6, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Murata in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,413 to Mullis. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mullis does not overcome the deficiencies of Murata with respect to claims 1 and 8. Therefore, claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claim 17 recites displaying, for selection, at least one of a suggested camera and a suggested camera angle selection based on determined sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information. As discussed above, Murata does not teach or suggest such features, and Mullis does not overcome the deficiencies of Murata. Accordingly, claim 17 is patentable over the applied references.

As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 7, 14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Murata in view of JP 10-282564A to Kishimoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kishimoto does not overcome the deficiencies of Murata with respect to claims 1 and 8. Therefore, claims 7 and 14 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claim 18 recites that a meeting capture controller displays, for selection, at least one

of a suggested camera and a suggested camera angle selections based on sensed activity information, stored object position information and stored rule information. As argued above with respect to claim 1, Murata does not teach or suggest such features, and Kishimoto does not overcome this deficiency. Accordingly, claim 18 is patentable over the applied references.

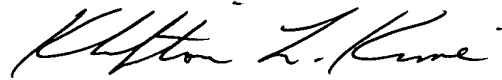
As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claim 19 recites an input device and that one of the suggested camera selection and the suggested camera angle selection is manually selected by a user using the input device. New claim 20 recites providing an input device, and allowing a user to manually select at least one of the suggested camera selection and the suggested camera angle selection using the input device. These features are described in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0022]. These claims are patentable at least for their dependence on claims 1 and 8, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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